

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247485
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SW

SUBJECT:THYBERG/VEST MEETING

1. SWEDISH POLITICAL DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERG CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST OCTOBER 14. THIRTY MINUTES GENERAL DISCUSSION CENTERED ON US/SOVIET RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. THYBERG SAID THAT BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION IN SWEDEN HAD BEEN APPREHENSIVE DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAT US HANDLING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WOULD HURT DETENTE. THEY WERE NOW REASSURED BY WHAT APPEARED TO BE A MORE BALANCED APPROACH. VEST COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD, PERHAPS NATURALLY, ALSO BEEN APPREHENSIVE IN THE EARLY MONTHS, AS THEY TRIED TO TAKE STOCK OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THEY TOO SEEMED PERCEPTIVELY REASSURED SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S CHARLESTON SPEECH. ON BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS, VEST SAID WE WERE OPTIMISTIC ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A FULL REVIEW OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 247485

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL ACT, BUT WITHOUT POLEMICS. AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG HAD SET THIS TONE IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT. WE WOULD TRY TO POSE OUR MOST STRINGENT QUESTIONS IN CLOSED SESSION.

3. THYBERG DESCRIBED HIS POLICY TALKS WITH TONY LAKE OCTOBER 13 AS EXTREMELY USEFUL. THE ALL DAY SESSION HAD

COVERED NORTHERN SECURITY, EUROCOMMUNISM, NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS, EAST/WEST RELATIONS, AND DISARMAMENT. THE SWEDISH DELEGATION WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR AND PROFITED FROM THE OPENNESS OF US PLANNERS IN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES.

4. VEST EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT US AGREEMENT ON THE STANSAAB LICENSE APPLICATION HAD FINALLY BEEN PROVIDED EARLIER THAT AFTERNOON. HE SAID WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO EXPEDITE CONSIDERATION OF THE CASE IN COCOM.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PFOR, SW, US, UR, (THYBERG, KNUT), (VEST, GEORGE)
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